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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/826,998	04/19/2004	Satoshi Fuse	82478-6600	3496

21611 7590 10/09/2008  
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EXAMINER
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RANKINS, WILLIAM E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3696

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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10/09/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/826,998

Applicant(s)

FUSE ET AL.

Examiner

WILLIAM E. RANKINS

Art Unit

3696

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 January 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5, 7-11 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some    \* c) ☒ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>08/09/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 08/09/2004 was filed in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

### ***Status of Claims***

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 16 and 17 are new. Claims 1, 6, 13, 14 and 15 have been amended.

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments, see pgs. 13-23, filed 1/28/2008, with respect to claims 1-15 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 103 rejections of 10/31/2007 has been withdrawn.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The examiner has researched the prior art thoroughly in various subclasses,

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foreign patents, and non-patent literature and has conferred with colleagues regarding the claimed subject matter. Although the concept and methods of consolidated financial statements exists. The particular claimed subject matter as follows is not found in the prior art:

- a. A receipt notification receiving unit as described in the claims.
- b. An exclusion unit as described in the claims.

The examiner notes that without further clarification of the bill issuing device, bill receiving device, entry, extraction and output units the prior art discloses these as well known combinations of data entered into spreadsheets and acted upon by programs to determine offsetting credits and debits by well known systems including input devices, databases, processors and calculation programs which one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use. See JP 2002366722, Para's. 0002 and 0008 in particular.

In 1995 it was disclosed that Motorola used a system for consolidating financial statements between their entities. Each entity was allowed to use whatever programs they desired so long as they were compatible with the main office's software.

The applicant also discloses that the methods of consolidated accounting are well known in the art but that what is missing is a system which will speed the accumulation and processing of data.

Henmi discloses a consolidated accounting processing system in JP 2004118524.

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Choukeizai-Sha also discloses the design of a consolidated accounting system, Published June 5, 1997 as disclosed in US 2005/0256789 by Matsuoka who further discloses other Japanese patent applications covering the same subject in the background of the invention.

Other references have been cited by the examiner in the documents attached to this office action for review by the applicant.

Ordinarily, the automation of a known process is not patentable per se. In the present case, the particulars of the process can not be found in the prior art either alone or in combination as stated above.

2. As allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant's reply must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claims 2-5, 7-11 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if the rejection of the base claim is overcome.

A review of the claims and search necessitated the rejections below.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

1. Claims 1, 2, 6, 13, 14, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In the present case, the term "specified" is used liberally in the claims but is not defined in the specification. The meaning of this term as it relates to the disclosure is unclear.

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***Conclusion***

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William E. Rankins whose telephone number is 571-270-3465. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Dixon can be reached on 571-272-6803. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/William E Rankins/

Examiner, Art Unit 3696

08/12/2008

/Daniel S Felten/

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Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3696